

SITUATION REPORT NO. 21
INCIDENT NO. 2001 - 005
DATE: May 22, 2001 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The Red River of the North continues to fall slowly at all locations. River levels at both Wahpeton and Fargo remain near flood stage due to upstream reservoir releases. The river at Wahpeton, where flood stage is 10 feet, measured 9.2 feet this morning. The five-day forecast calls for the river to remain at nine feet through Sunday. The river at Fargo, where flood stage is 17 feet, measured 17.3 feet this morning. The river level is expected to slowly decrease to 16.9 feet by Sunday.

Around Devils Lake, high water tables and wave action are causing erosion of existing riprap and roadbeds. Soft and rutted roads continue to make travel difficult. Owners of pickups, trucks and tractors have reported that their vehicles have been stuck in sinkholes. Officials are concerned that the response time of emergency vehicles may be reduced because of extremely soft roadbeds. Individuals and business owners continue to report property damage.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) reported five sites where floodwaters are threatening highways. These sites include:

Minot District

- N.D. Highway 14 at mile marker 69, 4 ½ miles south of Anamoose, where water is on the northbound lane;

Bismarck District

- N.D. Highway 3, 10 miles north of Tuttle, where water is on the edge of the highway;
- N.D. Highway 200, mile markers 230 and 231, three miles east of McClusky, where water is on the edge of the highway (site of a temporary gravel grade raise);

Devils Lake District

- N.D. Highway 200, mile marker 257, west of Chaseley, which is open to one-lane of traffic due to flooding; and

- N.D. Highway 19 at mile marker 147, nine miles east of its junction with U.S. Highway 281, where water and debris are on the highway.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven on May 21 requested President George W. Bush to issue a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration for flooding in 27 counties and two Indian reservations. Counties and tribal lands included in the request are: Barnes, Benson, Bottineau, Cass, Cavalier, Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder, McHenry, McLean, Nelson, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, Rolette, Sheridan, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Wells, Spirit Lake Nation, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Statewide estimates of damage compiled by local-state-federal Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) teams show losses of nearly \$15 million to public infrastructure. Governor Hoeven requested implementation of the Public Assistance Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The findings of the PDA team did not reveal problems of the magnitude required for requesting and implementing Individual Assistance Programs. Because the state still remains extremely vulnerable due to saturation in many areas, Governor Hoeven asked the N.D. Division of Emergency Management to continue to evaluate the impact of 2001 flooding on North Dakota citizens for potential implementation of the Individual Assistance Programs.

State and federal officials estimate at least \$45 million in damages were prevented in this year's flood event by the mitigation actions of individuals, businesses and local, state and federal governments. The estimate is based comparisons to past flooding and emergency protective measures, as well as private and public mitigation measures.

Ramsey County officials upgraded their emergency declaration to a disaster declaration. Officials for Dickey, Steele and Ward Counties issued emergency declarations. In Traill County, the mayor of city of Hatton signed an emergency declaration.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director